

New Directions

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Editors Notes

Editorial Staff

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From the Editors Notebook

2 Mordecai Wyatt Johnson

We are dedicating this issue to the late Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson.

Dr. Johnson needs no elaborate introduction here. Turn to the special section beginning on page 11. This section is our way of saying thank you to a grand old man—a man who devoted a lifetime improving the quality of education for Black youth, a man who made Howard University become a viable and internationally-respected center of learning, a man who championed the cause of freedom and equality for all people.

If there is ever to be a monument erected on the campus of Howard University, it would have to be that of Mordecai Wyatt Johnson. Indeed, he has made his mark as an educator and as a visionary administrator.

Our thanks go to all of the contributing writers to the special section, to the local media for permission to reprint editorials, and to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center for most of the photographs.

As we celebrate one of our own heroes, we have not overlooked the usual presentation of articles and poetry which make for interesting reading. You will find, as you turn the pages, articles on issues of national and international scope. There is a review of Alex Haley's highly regarded book, *ROOTS*, in this issue. Read the editor's report on Somalia beginning on page 4, and commentary by the President of Liberia beginning on page 40. If you follow Black economic development with interest, read the article beginning on page 10.

Vol. 4 No. 1

This issue of *New Directions* marks the beginning of our fourth year, and we are hopeful that 1977 will be as rewarding and as exciting as the preceding years were.

As we look forward to another productive year, we find it appropriate to wish all of you—our readers—a good year during 1977, and to thank you for the support you have given us in our effort to maintain the uniqueness of *New Directions* as a literary publication without equal. Your praise, as well as your objective criticism, has helped us to sustain and to strengthen our product.

As we have promised before, we will continue to pursue our craft without jeopardizing the dignity of our publication and without compromising our professionalism. We shall continue to report the truth as we see it, with the belief that in the end only the truth shall prevail.

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Abdulkadir N. Said
Editor

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